CBI Probe Files Pending with Ministry

1285. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various Medical Store Depots are under CBI probe; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that the files of investigation are pending with the Ministry for taking a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Some complaints about irregularities in Medical Store Organisation are under CBI investigation. There is, however, no CBI report/file where action has not been initiated by the Ministry.

Taxation on Auto Industry

†1286. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantum of taxation is proving to be the greatest hurdle in the development of auto-industry; and

(b) if not, the rates of excise duty on commercial vehicles, three-wheelers and two-wheelers and the import duty imposed upon the import of various spare parts for the said vehicles and the average rate of sales tax of the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) With a veiw to facilitating the growth of the auto Industry Government have already reduced the Excise Duty on Motor Cars from 40% to 32% and on scooter and motorcycles from 24% to 16% in the year 2001-2002.

(b) The present rate of excise duty on commercial vehicles, two & three wheelers are as under:—

Type of Vehicle	Excise duty
Commercial Vehicles	16%
Two wheelers	16%
Three wheelers	16%

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The spare parts of these vehicles are imported at an import duty ranging from concessional rate of 5% to peak rate of 30%.

Currently the national average of sales tax is around 12% *ad valorem*.

Formation of Joint Working Group

1287. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint Working Group is to be formed by Government for regular interaction to remove impediments to industrial growth;

(b) if so, whether Government are also considering grant of price preference to domestic industry in accordance with the provisions of the World Trade Organisation;

(c) whether any steps in this regard have been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABH BHAI RAMJI BHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The Department of Heavy Industry have already constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Heavy Industry) for identifying impediments faced by the Capital goods Industry in India and to find solutions.

(b) to (d) The domestic industry already enjoys price preference in respect of projects financed by the International Agencies like World Bank guidelines and is compatible with WTO regime.

Performance of PSUs in Gujarat

1288. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of PSUs located in the State of Gujarat during the last three years; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to improve the performance?